For Innovision Technologies and Partners, the Stars aren’t the Limit

BY BRENDA MATAMOROS
Women’s Enterprise USA
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If a person were to look up the word business-woman in a dictionary, Nikki Olyai’s photo would accompany the definition. Olyai’s success as president of Innovision Technologies, an advanced sciences, engineering, and information technology firm, is a direct result of her perseverance, long hours of hard work, strategic thinking, and intelligence... she has a master’s in computer science, with a focus on software engineering.

The path of success for Olyai has been full of exciting challenges and amazing business opportunities, including supporting several Fortune 500 companies, such as Ford Motor Company, Motorola, and IBM, and contributing to the continued success of high-tech driven U.S. Government agencies, such as NASA and the Department of Defense, and their prime contractors.

“Innovision Technologies has demonstrated through past performances that we have the ability to deliver outstanding results for our clients,” Olyai said.


Through her business ventures, Olyai has made valuable strategic connections. One of those connections has been Dr. Renaldo Jensen, a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, and a retired director of Ford Motor Company’s supplier diversity development office.

After eight years of Innovision Technologies supporting Ford Motor Company as a supplier, Nikki Olyai and Dr. Jensen met. Over time, Jensen recognized the innovative and quality-oriented business practices being used at Innovision Technologies. Later, when Jensen retired from Ford Motor Company, he came on board with Innovision Technologies as its new chairman and CEO. As a team, Olyai and Jensen have taken on business opportunities that are out of this world ... literally. With the guidance of Lt. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, chief operating officer who assists the director of NASA’s Jet Propulsion’s Laboratory (JPL), Innovision Technologies has advanced its involvement with JPL and the Deep Space Network program in association with the California Institute of Technology.

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For Innovation Technologies and Partners (continued from page 1)
Partnering with JPL, Innovation Technologies is now involved in space exploration programs, including the twin spacecraft Voyager 1 and 2, which flew by Jupiter and Saturn; Ulysses, the joint project between NASA and the European Space agency, which studied the Sun’s poles; and the Mars Global Surveyor, which studied the Martian surface, atmosphere and interior—just to name a few.

Innovation Technologies is linked to the Deep Space Network—or DSN—which is an international network of antennas supporting interplanetary spacecraft missions and radio and radar astronomy observations for the exploration of the solar system and the universe. This unique and complex network also supports selected Earth-orbiting missions.

The DSN currently consists of three deep-space communications facilities placed approximately 120 degrees apart around the world: at Goldstone, in California’s Mojave Desert; near Madrid, Spain; and near Canberra, Australia. Strategic placement permits constant observation of spacecraft as the Earth rotates, making the DSN the largest and most sensitive scientific telecommunications system in the world.

“Innovation Technologies has been supporting the Deep Space Network program for the last three years. That’s our area of expertise,” Jensen said. “Because of our engineering background, we understand these technologies and the idiosyncrasies of the consultants who support these highly defined niches. Being well-versed and experienced in this area, we can provide the expertise to solve specific technical issues for large corporations and U.S. Government agencies.” Innovation Technologies also has a Mentor-Protégé agreement with JPL. “We have demonstrated a desire to be a part of an innovative, creative, out-of-the-box thinking Mentor-Protégé program. Our Mentor-Protégé agreement with JPL focuses on a synergistic, mutually rewarding business relationship,” explained Olyai. “Our program capitalizes on best practices, and develops new innovations and enhanced processes involving Mentor Protégé ventures.”

To view the entire article, please log on to www.weusa.biz.

BROCK NAMED SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, Aug. 23, the Huntsville Association of Small Businesses in Advanced Technology presented the Small Business Advocate of the Year award to David Brock, procurement analyst and Small Business specialist at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Brock received the award during the Small Business Awards Celebration banquet, an annual event hosted by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the Huntsville Association of Small Businesses in Advanced Technology, visit www.hasbat.org.

TOP 10 REASONS TO LOVE SMALL BUSINESS: THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

1. The latest figures show that small businesses make up more than 99.7% of all employers.
2. Four years after start-up, half of all small businesses remain open.
3. Small businesses create 75 percent of the net new jobs in our economy.
4. Small businesses make up 97 percent of all private sector workers.
5. Home-based businesses account for 53 percent of all small businesses.
6. Small businesses employ about 50 percent of all private sector workers.
7. Small businesses produce 29 percent of all export value.
8. Small businesses make up over 500,000 per year.
9. Small businesses create 50 percent of the nonfarm private gross domestic product (GDP).
10. Small businesses make up 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large patenting firms.

For more information, visit the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy website at www.sba.gov/advo.

GOOD NEWS:

We are making headway in improving our SBA Scorecard grade. While our current status is still a “Red,” we have met eight of the nine required standards, which earns us a “Yellow” in the Progress category. The objective, of course, is to achieve a grade of “Green.” I’m confident that your continued efforts in helping the Agency to meet its small business contracting goals will enable us to succeed.

And because outstanding efforts in support of our small business program deserve to be recognized, the upcoming NASA Small Business Advocates Awards (SBAA) ceremony will acknowledge contributions made by NASA personnel. Criteria for nominating candidates in each of the four award categories are listed in our August 23 letter, announcing the event. Please be sure to send in your nominations by September 30.

This issue of the OSBP newsletter includes the top 10 reasons to love small business as well as highlights from the 3rd Annual National Veterans Small Business Conference & Expo. I hope you find it informative and helpful as you continue to work on behalf of the small business community.

GLENN A. DELGADO
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
NASA OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS
NOMINEED BY Ames RESEARCH CENTER, for outstanding performance on the Environmental Support Services Contract, Integrated Science Solutions, Inc. (ISSI) was named 2007 Small Business Administration (SBA) Region IX Prime Contractor of the Year. This award honors small businesses that have provided the federal government with outstanding goods and services as prime contractors. SBA Region IX includes the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii, plus Guam.

Prime Contractor of the Year nominations are judged on the following criteria: overall management, technical capabilities, cost performance, resource utilization, financial strength, delivery performance, labor relations, special achievements, customer interface, and exceptional results.

ISSI with nine other Regional winners were presented awards by President George Bush and SBA Administrator Mr. Steven Preston at the Small Business Week 2007 in Washington, DC, April 23-24, 2007.

In addition, Cecelia McCloy, President and CEO of Integrated Science Solutions, Inc. (ISSI), was appointed on July 17, 2007 to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council. ISSI, a certified woman-owned science and engineering firm, was started in 1999. Since then, the company has grown to 75 people in six locations across the United States.

3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE & EXPO


GLENNA DELGADO, Assistant Administrator of NASA’s Office of Small Business Programs, served as a panel member in The Real Deal session, sharing his insight on how to achieve contracting success in the federal contracting arena. He also participated in the Town Hall session, which provided conference attendees an opportunity to voice their opinion and engage in candid discussion on ways to improve opportunities for veterans.

ROBERT MEDINA, Small Business Specialist from Dryden Flight Research Center, participated in Breakout: Services Part I, which focused on challenges specific to service contracts, such as physical security, staffing, performance-based contracting, incentive awards, response to performance work statements, and board reviews.

GIL DEL VALLE, Procurement Analyst from Goddard Space Flight Center, discussed the federal government’s quest for knowledge superiority through integrated Command and Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance systems in Breakout: IT Part II.

ANDRE STEFANOVICH, Manager of the Acquisition Division, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, participated in Breakout: Sources Sought and Proposal Development, which discussed effective responses to Sources Sought announcements and effective proposal development, both critical to capturing federal government business.

NASA Small Business Specialists CHERYL HARRISON from Johnson Space Center, ROBERT MEDINA from Dryden Flight Research Center, LARRY THIRD from Kennedy Space Center, and LUPE VELASQUEZ from Ames Research Center participated in Matchmaking Sessions, in which small businesses are “matched” to government agencies, large businesses, and major corporations that have contract opportunities for growing companies that offer specific products and services. Matchmaking Sessions can create mutually-beneficial relationships for teaming on future contracts.

Mentor Protégé Program Update

BY DAVID B. GROVE, PROGRAM MANAGER, Office of SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

OSBP has hired Triumph Enterprises, Inc to assist in reviewing the Mentor Protégé Program. Triumph is a disabled veteran owned small business that will be contacting the current Mentors and Protégés and documenting their comments and suggestions on how to improve the program. Future newsletters will contain more on the program review and any changes to the program. OSBP is interested in your views. We are on track to allow new agreements by the end of the calendar year.
New OSBP Employee

OSBP is pleased to welcome Spencer K. Foster, who recently joined the team through the Department of Veteran's Affairs and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Coming Home to Work Initiative. Through this Initiative, which is a part of VR&E's early outreach efforts, civilian work experience is made available to VR&E eligible service-members pending medical separation from active duty at major Military Treatment Facilities. Special emphasis is placed on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) service-members.

Spencer, who joined the OSBP team in July 2007, is a native of Washington, D.C., is fluent in Spanish and speaks several other languages. His areas of expertise in Acquisitions, Procurement Management, and Contract Management will be put to good use. Primarily, he will evaluate, update, and rewrite the mission, vision, and strategic plan as required by Presidential Directive 13360 and NASA's implementation plans for the directive.

In Spencer’s words, “I am happy to be a part of the NASA family and feel that I will be an asset in the Small Business Programs Office, as a Program Analyst.”

To contact Spencer call (202) 358-0553 or email him at spencer.k.foster@nasa.gov.

OSBP Staff:

The OSBP Office is a team of nine staff members committed to providing excellence in service and information to the small business community.

GlenA n. delgaDo, Assistant Administrator
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Sonja fArrell, Management Analyst
Spencer K. foster, Program Analyst
David B. gRove, Program Manager for Science Centers, Dryden Flight Research Center, and Glenn Research Center
Shirley perez, Program Manager for Aeronautics Centers (Currently on Detail)
TruPhelia M. pArker, Scheduler (Contractor)
Tabi tepFer, Program Analyst (Contractor)
Tara wilsOn, Executive Assistant

To Submit an Article:

The Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) Newsletter is the quarterly electronic publication of the NASA OSBP.

OSBP welcomes articles and opinion pieces that are directed to advocates of small businesses. These articles are printed as space is available and should be approximately 750-1,000 words in length. Articles that were printed elsewhere cannot be reprinted in the OSBP Newsletter without written permission from the original printing source.

Do you have a small business success story that could inspire small business collaboration and advocacy? If so, tell us about it. Send your ‘Success Story’ to smallbusiness@nasa.gov.

Success Story Submission Schedule:

Deadline:
April 30th
July 31st
October 31st
January 31st

Published:
June
September
December
March

OSBP Website:

The new and improved NASA Office of Small Business Programs website is up and proving successful in helping individuals and companies to navigate small business policy, procedure, and best practices at NASA.

The purpose of the website, www.osbp.nasa.gov, is to share the vision of the small business program at NASA, as well as provide pertinent information on how to do business with NASA.